



DEFEND CONTROL JOBS
AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

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ALL MEMBERS - cc OUT OF TRADE MEMBERS (home addresses)

Members will be aware that the commutation factors applicable to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 (FPS) have recently been amended (May 2008) and are to be applied retrospectively from 1st October 2007. The full implications have been explained in an All Members Circular 2008HOC0346SS (available to view on the FBU website) and the July edition of the Firefighter magazine.

Members may also be aware that the Police Federation has lodged a claim for a Judicial Review which asks the court to decide if the 1st October 2007 implementation date for the amendments can be challenged. The court will initially decide whether or not to grant permission for the Judicial Review to take place.

Since being notified of the commutation factor amendments, the FBU has been contacted by numerous retired members who feel very aggrieved with the implementation date decided upon by CLG. The FBU has been requesting information, receiving legal advice and has carried out further research into the issue. The Executive Council will be discussing the outcomes of this at the next Executive Council meeting scheduled for 20th August 2008 and agreeing the most appropriate course of action.

Members can be confident of the first class track record that the FBU has in pursuing challenges of this nature and can be assured that if the Executive Council decides to dispute the implementation date, this will be a well considered and accurate challenge.

Members who have sent correspondence, which has been received and responded to by the National Officer with the pension remit, Brother Sean Starbuck, can be assured that these have been taken very seriously, but they should also be aware that many of the issues raised, i.e. anger over the implementation date, missing out on the benefit and questioning what the FBU are doing, are being duplicated on the majority of occasions. Members have been, and will continue to be, kept informed of developments through all the usual channels, including the FBU website www.fbu.org.uk. In the meantime members should remain patient and understand that any challenges of this nature do take time to progress.

On a separate issue which is of vital importance, I would urge serving members who are in contact with retired members to check that they are current Out Of Trade members and that their contact details are accurate.

This circular will also be distributed to all Out Of Trade members and will be posted on the FBU website.

ANDY DARK
ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

AD/js